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About the monthly Water Level bulletin

June Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term June average:

Great Lakes Basin	146%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	182%
Lake Superior	142%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	123%
Lake Ontario	184%

LEVEL news

Volume 8, Number 7 **July 7, 2000**

June Rainfall Brings Some Relief, But Upper Great Lakes Levels Remain Below Average

Great Lakes water levels rose during June in response to above average rainfall. Lakes Superior, Erie and Ontario levels had much sharper rises during the month compared to Lakes Michigan-Huron. Water levels on all of the Great Lakes, with the exception of Lake Ontario, remain below average.

Compared to their long-term average levels for this time of the year, Lakes Superior is currently 18 cm below average, Lakes Michigan-Huron 48 cm below average, Lake St. Clair 16 cm below average and Lake Erie about 6 cm below average. Lake Ontario, on the other hand, is currently about 29 cm higher than average, due to abundant rainfall on its basin during the past three months. Increased flows of the St. Lawrence River and the Ottawa River raised water levels in the Montreal region sufficiently for navigation in June.

Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair are expected to remain below average for the rest of the summer and early fall. Lake Ontario's level is expected to remain above average, while Lake Erie's level may approach average if wet conditions continue.

Rain, Rain...

June was another wet month across Ontario, setting new marks for monthly rainfall totals in several locations, and when combined with the high totals of May, making this one of the wettest starts to summer on record. There was no day that rain did not fall somewhere in the province. On 14 days there was at least one location that had a measurement of more than 25 mm. On eight other occasions rainfall topped 50 mm. The only part of the province to escape the month's excess moisture was found in an area extending along the east side of Georgian Bay to Sudbury and then northeastwards to north of Lake Temiskaming. Rainfall amounts here were 75 to 90% of normal.

The temperature trend during June generally showed a marked departure from that of the latter half of the spring. Throughout almost all of northern Ontario monthly means were one to three degrees below normal. In the southeast they were also below normal, although generally only by a degree or less. Only in an area to the west of a Toronto-Collingwood line and along the northeast shore of Lake Superior were mean temperatures for the month above normal.

Note: These figures are preliminary.

June Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term June average:

Lake Superior	72%
Lake Erie	92%
Lake Huron	91%
Lake Ontario	100%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

Source: Malcolm Geast, Atmospheric Science Division, Meteorological Service of Canada, Ontario Region

Extra Caution Needed

While no new record lows are expected this year, recreational boaters on Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron (including Georgian Bay), St. Clair and Erie do need to exercise extra caution on the water this boating season. Areas that have been safely navigated in previous years may be too shallow this year. The risk of scraping bottom and damaging propellers is much greater than last year.

Lakes Superior and Ontario Regulation

Lake Superior outflows for the next few months are expected to remain below average and as specified by the lake's regulation plan. The regulation plan aims to provide a balance in the water levels of Lake Superior and Lakes Michigan-Huron taking into consideration their historical ranges of fluctuation.

In accordance with the International St. Lawrence River Board of Control's strategy to slowly remove some of the water conserved on Lake Ontario earlier in the year, the outflow of Lake Ontario starting mid June was set 100 m^3/s more than specified by the lake's regulation plan. In light of the recent rapid rise in the water level of Lake Ontario, the Board has decided to further increase the outflow of Lake Ontario until the level of the lake has passed its seasonal peak for this year. The flow for the first week of July was set 300 m^3/s more than specified by Regulation Plan 1958-D. After the lake has passed its peak, the outflow will again be adjusted at 100 m^3/s more than specified by the regulation plan.

Superior Board Public Meeting

The International Lake Superior Board of Control held its annual public meeting June 27, 2000 at the Presque Isle Park pavilion in Marquette, MI. Those in attendance expressed their concerns and views regarding Lake Superior water levels.

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